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GEORGE SCHWARTZ

549 FAIRFIELD ROAD
EAST WINDSOR, NEW JERSEY 08520

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November 25, 1992

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Donna Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Comment concerning
MM Docket No. 92-260
Cable Home Wiring Addressed

Dear Ms. Searcy:

The cable subscriber should be responsible for all cable wiring in the home. This would be consistent with the practice, now taken for granted, of the homeowner owning and being the responsible party for telephone wiring, electric wiring and, for that matter, plumbing/water pipes.

The 1992 Cable Act continues to allow cable companies to intrude in the cable subscriber home. The subscriber is now forced to pay a monthly fee for each additional TV set, beyond the primary set, hooked up to the cable system; another fee for each remote control unit; another fee for interconnecting a specified number of VCR's, and possibly another fee for hooking up to a cable-ready TV set. Cable companies routinely threaten subscribers with fines and jail time for violating the rules.

The homeowner can have an unlimited number of electric outlets without paying a monthly fee for each; and an unlimited number of telephone outlets and telephones without paying a monthly fee for each. We should not have to pay the cable company grinch a monthly fee for each cable hook-up in the home.

New Jersey Bell has announced (see enclosure) that they have entered into a cooperative agreement with Sammons Communications, Inc. They plan to install an advanced fiber optic network in three New Jersey towns and bring customers telephone, cable television and advanced information services over the same system. That would appear to signal that those subscribers will have control over the wiring in the home. At least that is the way it should be. But New Jersey Bell states that the voice, video and data signals will travel into the homes over a traditional pair of copper telephone wires and coaxial cable. Does that mean that the 11,700 homes involved in this experiment will control the telephone wiring in the home but the cable company will control the cable wiring?

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EAST WINDSOR, NEW JERSEY 08520

I believe millions of subscribers were looking forward to the day they could extricate themselves from the clutches of cable and shift to telephone company delivery of video programming. This new and unexpected partnership of cable and telephone companies in New Jersey is a corporate marriage arranged to take further advantage of the franchise money machine.

The electric and telephone companies do not send employees to the home to count outlets and cable companies should be stopped once and for all from demanding access to the home because they - the cable company - own a piece of it.

Cable companies have been committing economic rape of the subscriber for years. Do not allow them to continue to enter our homes to continue that economic and privacy rape.

I implore the FCC to take the cable industry out of the home and back on the street where they belong. Surely Congress intended to free the subscriber from outrageous fees and restrictive control.

Merely permitting ownership of wiring after termination of service will not solve the problem. Rules guaranteeing uniform technological and electronic flexibility for the homeowner must be enacted.

The right of the cable company to control and charge for wiring and equipment should terminate at that point where the cable enters the domicile of the subscriber.

Sincerely,



George Schwartz

Enclosure

A Bell Atlantic Company
@ New Jersey Bell

DEC 02 1992

NEWS

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For Release

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**NEW JERSEY BELL TO INSTALL ADVANCED FIBER NETWORK TO
DELIVER TELEPHONE, CABLE TV AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

Residents of three Morris County, NJ, towns will receive their cable television service over telephone company lines in a unique cooperative agreement between New Jersey Bell, a Bell Atlantic Company, and the current cable TV franchisee, Sammons Communications, Inc.

New Jersey Bell announced the plan today (November 16, 1992) to install an advanced fiber optic network in Madison, Florham Park and Chatham Borough, bringing customers telephone, cable television and advanced information services over the same system.

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"This project demonstrates New Jersey Bell's commitment to deploy its most advanced technology where market conditions, economics and regulatory incentives justify the investment," said James G. Cullen, New Jersey Bell president and chief executive officer. "It also reinforces our intent to meet competitive challenges head-on by being the transmission medium of choice for program providers, of which Sammons is the first."

"We are pleased to have developed this business relationship with New Jersey Bell and look forward to offering our customers cable service via an extensive fiber network," said Sammons Communications, Inc. President Mark S. Weber.

Under an agreement with Sammons, based in Dallas, TX, New Jersey Bell will deliver cable television signals to Sammons' 8,000 customers in the three Morris County communities. New Jersey Bell and Sammons also will work together to develop and trial additional innovative services. In total, the new network will serve about 11,700 homes.

This initiative, which is the first large-scale project of its kind in the country, comes on the heels of the FCC's recent video dial tone decision. In that order, the FCC granted local telephone companies the ability to provide cable TV transport to cable companies and gateway access service to information providers.

Work on the new fiber network will begin next spring and will be completed in 1994. It will carry regular telephone traffic, as well as advanced telephone and television services, and will support future services that change the way customers communicate, learn and are entertained.

"The announcement of this project should leave no doubt that New Jersey Bell is firmly committed to upgrading its network into an advanced, broadband network that eventually will extend to all communities," Cullen said. "We will put the best technological and human resources to work to meet customer needs for the variety of services that will be carried over our network."

New Jersey Bell recently filed a plan with the state Board of Regulatory Commissioners called Opportunity New Jersey that calls for the accelerated development of an advanced telecommunications network.

"This cooperative arrangement with Sammons underscores our commitment to New Jersey and to our Opportunity New Jersey network development plan," Cullen said. "Our public telecommunications network has the versatility, capacity and ubiquity needed to meet the information delivery needs of all kinds of information vendors. In addition, New Jersey's progressive regulatory environment makes our state an ideal place to seek out these cooperative ventures.

"It's clear that by agreeing to this arrangement, Sammons shares our commitment to develop and deliver new and advanced services to our mutual customers, as the network evolves."

The new fiber network in Morris County will provide the platform for delivery of innovative information services such as "video on demand," which enables customers to select and view a movie or program when they want to see it. Other capabilities will include transaction services such as banking and shopping from home. The network can be upgraded ultimately to provide interactive access to education and health care.

New Jersey Bell will replace existing copper telephone wiring in the three municipalities with fiber optic cable, which will extend to a curbside location near each customer's home. Voice, video and data signals then will travel into the home over a traditional pair of copper telephone wires and coaxial cable.

Installing fiber in the local network will enable New Jersey Bell to reduce maintenance and other costs over time, while opening the door to additional markets. The project will use equipment purchased from BroadBand Technologies, Inc., of Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Additional channels on the fiber network will be available to other information service providers, and negotiations with several such providers are under way. In the future, channel capacity will be expanded to allow customers increased access to additional programming.

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